

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Replace Figs. 2-3 with new Figs. 2-3 shown in the replacement sheets of
Figs. 2-3.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application in view of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, the specification has been amended to include a new title, and the drawings (Fig. 2-3) have been amended to delete reference to reference numerals 25.1 and 25.2.

Based on the foregoing amendment and the following remarks, the application is deemed to be in condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has requested that Applicants provide an Information Disclosure Statement listing the references cited in the specification. Applicants submit herewith an Information Disclosure Statement and copies of the references cited therein.

I. Objection to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to specification and in particular the title. The title has been amended as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the objection thereto. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request approval of the amendment to the specification and withdrawal of the objection thereto.

II. Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings (Figs. 2 and 3) for including reference characters not mentioned in the description, namely 25.1 and 25.2.

The Applicant has amended the drawings to delete reference to such reference characters.

In view of the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to approve the foregoing amendments to the drawings (replacement sheets, together with a letter to Official Drafts person, are enclosed) and to withdraw the objections to the drawings.

III. Rejection of the Claims

III a. Rejection of claims under 35 USC §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiura et al (US Patent No. 6,537,694) (Sugiura) in view of Ellsworth (US Patent No. 6,537,694). Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection.

It is respectfully submitted that the present invention, as defined in independent claim 1 and claims 2-5 that depend therefrom, would not be obvious over such references.

Sugiura shows a battery pack with an inner casing housing several battery cells. The inner casing is provided in an outer casing carrying two lock buttons with stoppers having a triangular cross section. When the battery pack is slid into the holder portion of a power tool, said stoppers travel over and engage respective stoppers of the tool to prevent the battery pack from being disengaged from the power tool.

Sugiura does expressly disclose that two lock buttons arc outwardly biased by a plate spring (col. 4, last par.). Thus, to one skilled in the art it would be obvious at most to provide pivotable lock buttons in the pack disclosed in Sugiura.

Further, as seen in Figs. 2 and 3, the two lock buttons are provided on the outer casing in an area surrounding a closed part of the inner casing. Thus, one skilled in the art would not find a suggestion in Sugiura to provide at least one actuation means being guided along a translatory axis, as recited in claim 1.

Moreover, contrary to the Examiner's argument, one skilled in the art would not have combined the battery pack of Sugiura with the features shown

in Ellsworth since these two references address different problems in completely different technical fields.

Even if one skilled in the art would search Ellsworth for a way to realize greater movements of actuation means of Sugiura one skilled in the art could not find a way to install the outward biased pins of Ellsworth between the lock buttons of Sugiura. The inner casing as well as the battery cells of Sugiura make it impossible to use the pins and the spring disclosed in Ellsworth.

Further, the assembly of Ellsworth is not practical for a battery pack because of the auxiliary tools required to release the pins as disclosed in Ellsworth.

Under MPEP § 2143 *prima facie* case of obviousness requires that three basic criteria be met.

First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all of the claim limitation.

It is respectfully submitted that the first element of *prima facie* obviousness has not been established.

“obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching or suggesting supporting the combination. Under section 103, teachings of references can be combined only if there is some suggesting or incentive to do so.”

In re Fritch, 23 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1780, 1783 (Fed. Cir 1992) (footnote omitted) (emphasis in original). See also In re Sernaker, 217 U.S.P.Q. 1, 6 (Fed. Cir. 1983); SmithKline Diagnostics, Inc. v. Helena Laboratories Corp., 8 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1397, 1399 (Fed. Cir. 1989); In re Fine, 5 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

There is no suggestion, incentive or motivation in the cited references for the combination on which the Office Action relies. A statement that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to make modifications to the references is not sufficient to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. MPEP §2143.01 relying on Ex Parte Levengood, 28 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993). In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, “it is necessary for the Examiner to present evidence, preferably in the form of

some teaching, suggesting incentive or influence in the prior art, or in the form of generally available knowledge, that one having ordinary skill in the art would have been led to combine the relevant teachings.” Id. At 1301 (emphasis in original).

The Court of Appeals for Federal Circuit has held that a claimed invention was not obvious, where “[c]onspicuously missing from [the] record as any *evidence*, other than the PTO’s speculation (if it be called evidence) that one skilled in the art would have been motivated to make the modification of the prior art “necessary to arrived at the claimed invention. In re Jones 21 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

Ex Parte Clapp, 227 U.S.P.Q. 972, 973 (Bd. Pat. App & Inter. 1985) requires that when the references do not suggest the invention “. . . the Examiner must present a convincing line of reasoning as to why the artisan would have found the claimed invention to have been obvious in light of the teaching of the references.” No such line of reasoning is seen in the Office Action.

The Court of Appeals for the Federal Court clearly stated:

It is impermissible to use the claimed invention as an instruction manual or template to piece together the teaching of the prior art so that the claimed invention is rendered obvious.

In re Fritch, 23 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1780, 23 1780, 1783 (Fed. Cir. 1992)

In the In re Fritch holding only confirmed a long established view that obviousness should not be read “into an invention on the basis of Applicant’s own statements”, that the prior art must be viewed “without reading into that art Appellant’s teachings”, and that that teachings of the prior should, “in and of themselves and without the benefits of Appellant’s disclosure (emphasis in the original text) make the invention as a whole, obviously.” In *re Sponnoble*, 160 U.S.P.Q. 237, 243 (CCPA 1969). It is respectfully submitted that the teachings of the prior art does not make the present invention obvious.

The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit has consistently ruled that it is not permissible to use hindsight to reject a claim.

As pointed out in Uniroyal v. Redkin-Willey, 5 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1434, 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1988):

When prior art references require selective combination by the Court to render obvious a subsequent invention, there must be

some reason for the combination other than the hindsight gleaned from the invention itself. . . . Something in the prior art as a whole must suggest the desirability, and thus the obviousness, of making the combination.

There is nothing in the prior art that would suggest combining such references to achieve the claimed invention.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that none of the references alone or in combination make the present invention, as defined in Claim 1, obvious, and the present invention is patentable over such referenced.

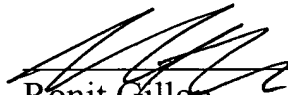
Claims 2-5 depend on Claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons Claim 1 is allowable and further because of specific features recited therein which, when taken alone and/or in combination with features recited in Claim 1, are not disclosed or suggested in the prior art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects, in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail and addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 31, 2005. 